

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**OCTOBER 20, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on October 19, 2005, **JAMES COOPER, JR., a/k/a “Coop,”** age 38, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. COOPER, who had previously been convicted by a federal jury of conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, distribution of crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, was sentenced to 285 months’ imprisonment, 5 years supervised release and was fined \$2100.

The evidence at trial established that between at least September 2000 through July 9, 2003, COOPER, his co-defendant, and others were involved in the distribution of crack cocaine and cocaine in Carbondale, Illinois. On three occasions, COOPER and his co-defendant sold crack cocaine to a confidential source working for law enforcement. When agents executed a search warrant at COOPER’s Carbondale apartment, they located over 540 grams of crack cocaine, 340 grams of cocaine, and 3 firearms. Agents also located \$120,408.00 cash hidden in COOPER’s apartment.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Carbondale Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Murphysboro Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort

of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.